### **VA FARMS Opportunities**

Demand for farm workers has never been stronger, especially in organic and sustainable agriculture!

Many kinds of jobs are open in agriculture and food systems:

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Seasonal
- · Rural or urban
- Be an owner or employee
- Long term careers or short term income.

**Endless Opportunities!** 

# Department of Veterans Affairs

William S.
Middleton Memorial
Veterans
Hospital & Clinics



#### Therapeutic and Supported Employment Services

345 West Washington Ave Suite 501 Madison, WI 53703

#### Contact: (608) 256-1901

Amy Ferkey, VRC Ext. 16433 Denise Chapin, Prog Mgr. Ext. 16431

# Veterans -Is Farming in your future?



## **VA FARMS**

(Veterans Affairs pilot program for Food & Agriculture Rehabilitation & Employment Support)

#### A partnership between:

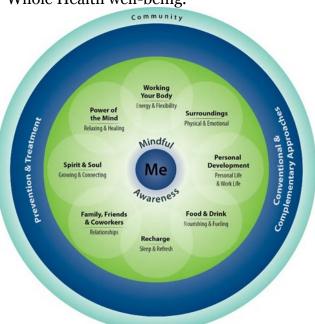
- Madison VA Hospital
- UW-Madison FISC
- Madison College



**Goals** Benefits

**Vision:** Veterans will improve their health and well-being and thrive in their communities through increased access to training opportunities in agricultural fields, meaningful therapeutic work, and Whole Health care.

Mission: To increase support for Veterans entering or re-entering the workforce in agricultural vocations by partnering with community organizations to provide high quality education, on-the-job training, therapeutic interventions, and Whole Health care (with an emphasis on Mental Health). This will revitalize interest and entry into the agricultural workforce and empower Veterans to thrive through Whole Health well-being.



Classroom Education: Tuition for certificate program or agricultural workshops from Madison College for Sustainable Agriculture, or University of Wisconsin-Madison Farm & Industry Short Course.

**Training Placements:** Paid work experiences on farms in south-central Wisconsin, including livestock, commodity crops, fruits and vegetables.

**Therapeutic Support:** Whole health approach to support mental and physical health needs of participating Veterans. Empowering Veterans to take charge of their health and wellbeing to live life to the fullest.



1. **Apply:** If you are not yet enrolled in VA Healthcare, please visit: <a href="https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/">www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/</a> or call 1-877-222-VETS.

**Getting Started** 

- 2. **Obtain referral:** If you are enrolled in VA Healthcare, please ask your medical or mental health provider for a referral to Therapeutic and Supported Employment Services (TSES).
- 3. **Get Started:** Meet with your TSES provider to receive guidance in creating a plan outlining your training, vocational and therapeutic goals.



